



PUBLIC HEALTH

**ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER WASHINGTON**

School Environmental Health & Safety Rules

WAC 246-366

State Board of Health — October 12, 2005

The Importance of Environmental Health and Safety in Schools

- A healthy school environment is important for learning.
- Children are more vulnerable to environmental hazards than adults.
- Public health measures can help protect school children.

Environmental Health & Safety Issues in Schools

- Indoor air quality
- Safe food and water
- Building design
- Safety in labs, art rooms, and shops
- Safe use, clean-up, and disposal of chemicals
- Injury prevention through design and modification
- Integrated pest management

Current Rules

Environmental Health

Chapter 246-366 WAC Primary & Secondary Schools

Rules and Regulations of
the State Board of Health

Last Major Revision 6/8/71

What Have We Done to Date?

- State Board of Health (SBOH) staff reviewed existing rule January – July 2003.
- SBOH directs DOH to begin rulemaking by July 2004.
- CR-101 Filed on October 1, 2004.
- School Rule Development Committee (SRDC) advises DOH by creating proposals to address issues November 2004 — July 2005.

What Do We Have Left to Do?

- Develop draft rule (underway).
- Conduct workshops and gather comments, develop FINAL DRAFT rule, and prepare cost benefit analysis.
- SBOH official public hearings on proposed revisions.
- Typical effective date for revised rules: one year after adoption.

Goals for Updating School Environmental Health and Safety Rules

- Proactively protect children's health.
- Based on the best available science.
- Ensure accountability between school districts, their communities and local health jurisdictions.
- Support and promote current school health and safety programs that work.
- Least burdensome regulatory structure.
- Compatible and consistent with existing related regulations (such as building codes).
- Realistic about resource limitations of schools and local health jurisdictions.

School Rule Development Committee Membership

- **Schools** (6 members, 3 alternates)
Administrators, directors, maintenance & operations,
OSPI, and private schools
- **Students / Parents / Teachers** (5 members, 4 alternates)
Teachers, school nurses, PTA members, and parents
- **Architects** (1 member)
- **Public Health** (5 members)
LHJs, University of Washington

School Rule Development Committee Process

- Full Group Meetings
 - Initial Issue Review / November 2004
 - Workgroup Proposals Reviewed — 5 meetings
- Technical Area Workgroups: January — April 2005
 - Indoor Air Quality — 5 meetings
 - Drinking Water Quality — 4 meetings
 - Safety — 5 meetings

School Rule Development Committee Outcomes

- SRDC reviewed 101 workgroup proposals
 - combined & amended proposals, forwarding 47 proposals to DOH.
 - recorded their level of support for the proposals for DOH to consider in the DRAFT rule document.
- SRDC supported process
 - 89% Agreed that the SRDC addressed most important issues.
 - 83% Agreed that the process was open and fair to all participants.
 - 71% Agreed that they were generally satisfied with the process.

Indoor Air Quality Workgroup Topics

- Update, coordinate with other codes
- “Green cleaning” / using safer chemicals
- Fresh air intake issues (bus exhaust, building exhausts)
- Communicating with the school community
- Assuring construction according to approved design
- Mold prevention & clean-up

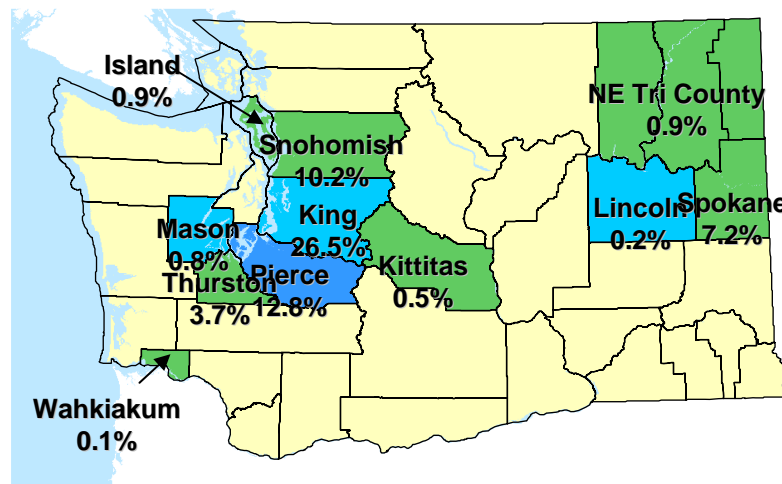
Drinking Water Workgroup Topics

- Discussion of federal and state drinking water rules relating to:
 - testing frequencies
 - maximum contaminant levels
 - reporting
 - notification
- Lead in plumbing fixtures
- Water treatment options
- Remediation options

Safety Workgroup Topics

- General Safety & Injury Prevention
- Playgrounds
- Contaminated soils
- Integrated Pest Management (least toxic control methods)
- Science & Art classrooms (materials and equipment)
- Career and Technical Education (shops, theater)
- Chemical storage / use / disposal / spill clean-up
- PE & Athletics (equipment & playfields)
- First Aid Safety & CPR

Local Health Jurisdiction School Environmental Health and Safety Programs



23% of Total State Enrollment Served By Programs With Periodic Inspections

All LHJs provide food service inspections, review new school sites and school designs, and respond to complaints.

Counties highlighted in **GREEN** have school programs with periodic building inspections for EH&S.

Counties in **LIGHT BLUE** will do inspections upon request for a fee.

Pierce County plans to start periodic inspections in Fall 2005.

% = percent of students served based on state enrollment information, OSPI website for Oct 2003 enrollment.

Unresolved Issues

- Schools have limited resources to pay for inspections.
- Limited participation by LHJs.
- Communication on health & safety issues in schools.
- Success will depend on training and resources.

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